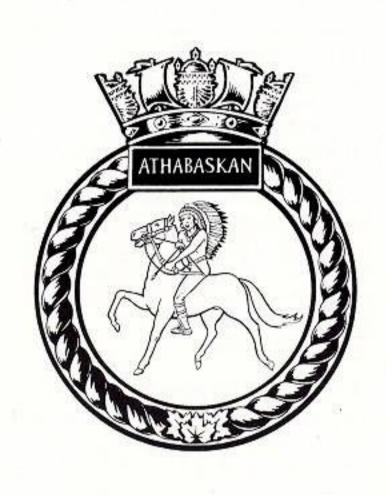
# Her Majesty's Canadian Ship ATHABASKAN

SNFL 1983



## Her Majesty's Canadian Ship ATHABASKAN



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## A Message from Comstanavforlant Commodore H.M.D. MacNeil



From the day that ATHABASKAN arrived in Plymouth, as the new Flagship of the Standing Naval Force Atlantic, it was obvious to all that she was prepared, eager and ready in all respects to fulfill the two important roles of Flagship and the Canadian member of the STANAVFORLANT team.

"It is not the beginning, but the continuing of the same which yieldeth the True Glory".

ATHABASKAN has carried on the fine tradition of Canadian Flagships during this year when STANAVFORLANT was under my tactical command.
Enthusiasm, professionalism, and justified pride have been her hallmarks. These qualities have been recognized by all in the squadron and I am very proud and happy that we ended the Canadian Year in Command with such a positive and high standard in the Flagship.

It has been fun, demanding, and very professionally rewarding. I hope that your ship's company, who have contributed so much to the success of the year, will look back on their flagship time with a sense of pride, accomplishment and with the knowledge that a more accurate image of what is best in our Navy, our Canadian Forces and of Canada could not have been better displayed than by ATHABASKAN.

Well done ATHABASKAN to you and your whole team for helping to ensure that the last few months of STANAVFORLANT were so successful. Good luck to all of your ship's company and their families. "We fight as one".

N. M. D. Macabil

H.M.D. MacNeil Commodore Commander, Standing Naval Force Atlantic

## A Message from Commander K.R. Scotten



I look back in the ship's time in STANAVFORLANT, as I am sure all of us in the ship's company do, with that sense of satisfaction and with the knowledge that what we have done, we have done with pride in our ship, our country and most of all ourselves. Well done to all of you. Furthermore it was obvious that the "God of Sailors" had a special place for the good ship ATHABASKAN and as a partial reward for the genuine determination and enthusiasm in the preparations for this deployment he rewarded us all with the smoothest winter crossing of the North Atlantic that I have ever experienced. Make no mistake about it, much of our success in this deployment was due to this initial preparation.

All of the ports were excellent ports to visit from Plymouth where we started with the squadron through Rosyth, Leith back to Rosyth, on to Den Helder and Zeebrugge, thence to downtown Hamburg, Portland, Brest, and first ever visit of SNFL to Spain at El Ferrol, and finally to Lisbon where we ended our SNFL time. On our way home as a private ship we stopped to visit Gibraltar. Between these ports we had the chance to perform our naval skills which as Flagships were that much more demanding, but with consequently more satisfaction when the job was done.

There were many memorable experiences this trip and I can only mention a few; "Sweeney's scientists" and their continued excellent fare; the great shooting particularly the night AA shoots and the flaming plummet of the RN drone savaged by our direct hit warshots; the demands and response of the engineers when we were in four ports in 36 hours never once delayed due to a problem; the response by our "air guys" when 429 suffered that single engine emergency; the RAS with FGS RHOEN in heavy seas when our deck guys in "mountains" of water achieved the fastest connection yet; and the spirited and total response of everyone to the sailpast and paint ship evolution in Lisbon. And the list could go on and on for what has been a truly outstanding four months.

I would also like to thank and acknowledge our wives, sweethearts, children, friends and all those near and dear to us who remained to endure the Canadian winter while we as sailors got on with the job we were called to do. You were always in our thoughts and although it has been an excellent deployment, it is also great to be home. We thank you for looking after the home front so that we could deploy.

As the NATO ready duty force we were not called to respond to any crisis, but take pride in knowing that we were always ready, and throughout the deployment demonstrated we were capable of responding. Now that it is over we wish those members who will leave us good luck while those of us who remain will go on with other activities on board. But, for all of us this book will serve as a reminder of our time as Flagship in the Standing NATO Naval Force Atlantic.

K. R. Scotten Commander

Commanding Officer

## Standing Naval Force Atlantic

The Standing Naval Force Atlantic (STANAVFORLANT) is a unique naval entity. It is the first permanent international naval squadron ever formed.

Binding together this multinational force is its common purpose. Its mission includes four basic objectives. First, the squadron must be capable of rapid deployment to a threatened area in times of crisis or tension. It represents an immediately available deterent naval force, SACLANT'S immediately reaction force.

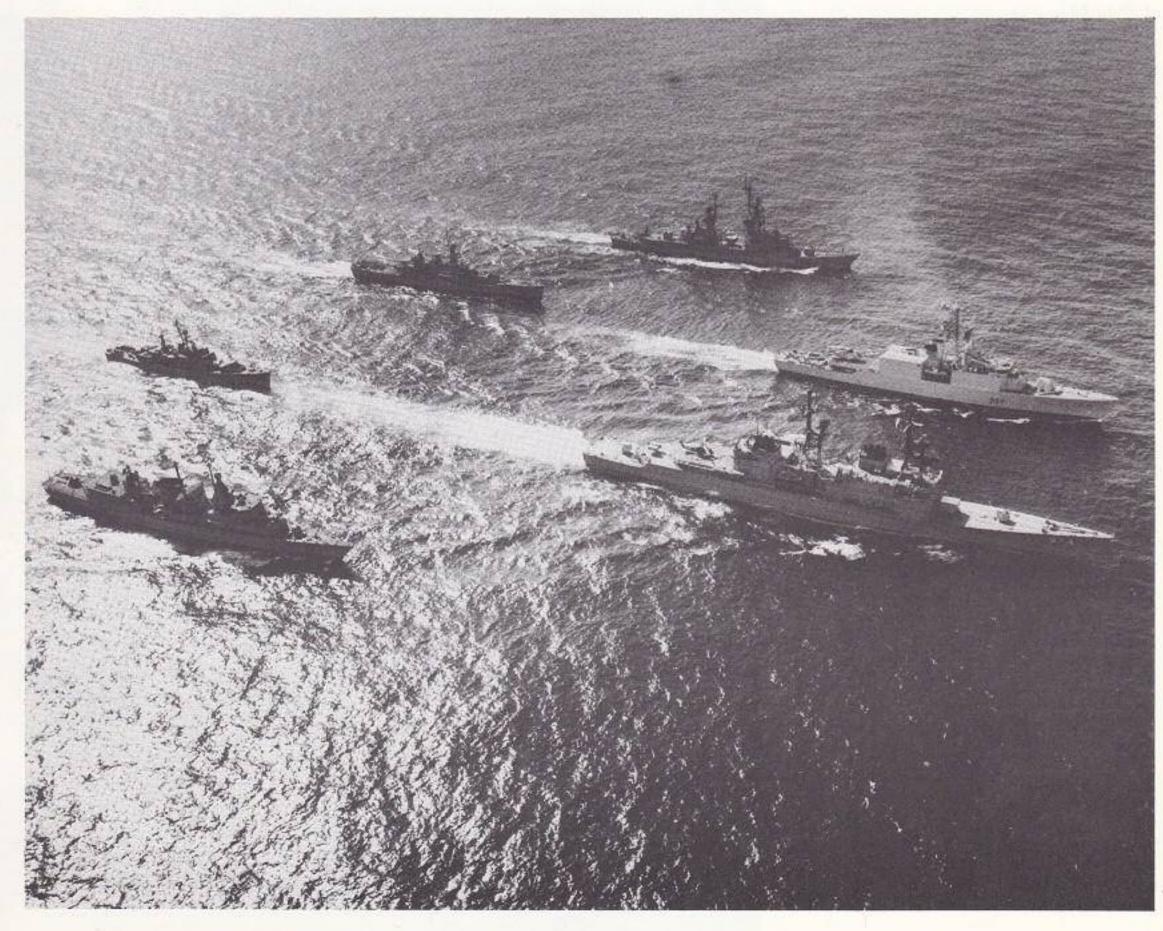
Second, STANAVFORLANT is charged with contributing to NATO maritime effectiveness. This is achieved through participation in both large and smaller scale NATO exercises. Furthermore in the course of providing continuous squadron experience and training, STANAVFORLANT serves as a development vehicle or new NATO tactics.

Third, STANAVFORLANT
demonstrates the solidarity of the
alliance by showing the flags of
the various member nations in a
single multi-national force.
Normally, during the course of
the year, the squadron will visit
some twenty-five to thirty ports,
including a deployment to the
east coast of the United States
and Canada.

As the fourth objective, the squadron could form a nucleus around which a more powerful and versatile naval force could be built.



CPL Paul Forget, NATO Photographer



## Ship's Company

Commanding Officer Cdr K. R. Scotten

XO LCdr B. R. Melville

Officers LCdr Hurl LCdr Morgan LCdr Taylor LCdr Jarvis LCdr Laviolette Maj Bosko LCdr Williams Maj MacKinnon LT(N) Gunn LT(N) Stoker LT(N) Watson LT(N) Dillon LT(N) Booth LT(N) Davis LT(N) Lambert LT(N) Read Capt Oke LT(USN) Faber Capt Hunt Capt MacKay CmdO Ouellet SLt Bouchard SLt Hadley SLt Barber

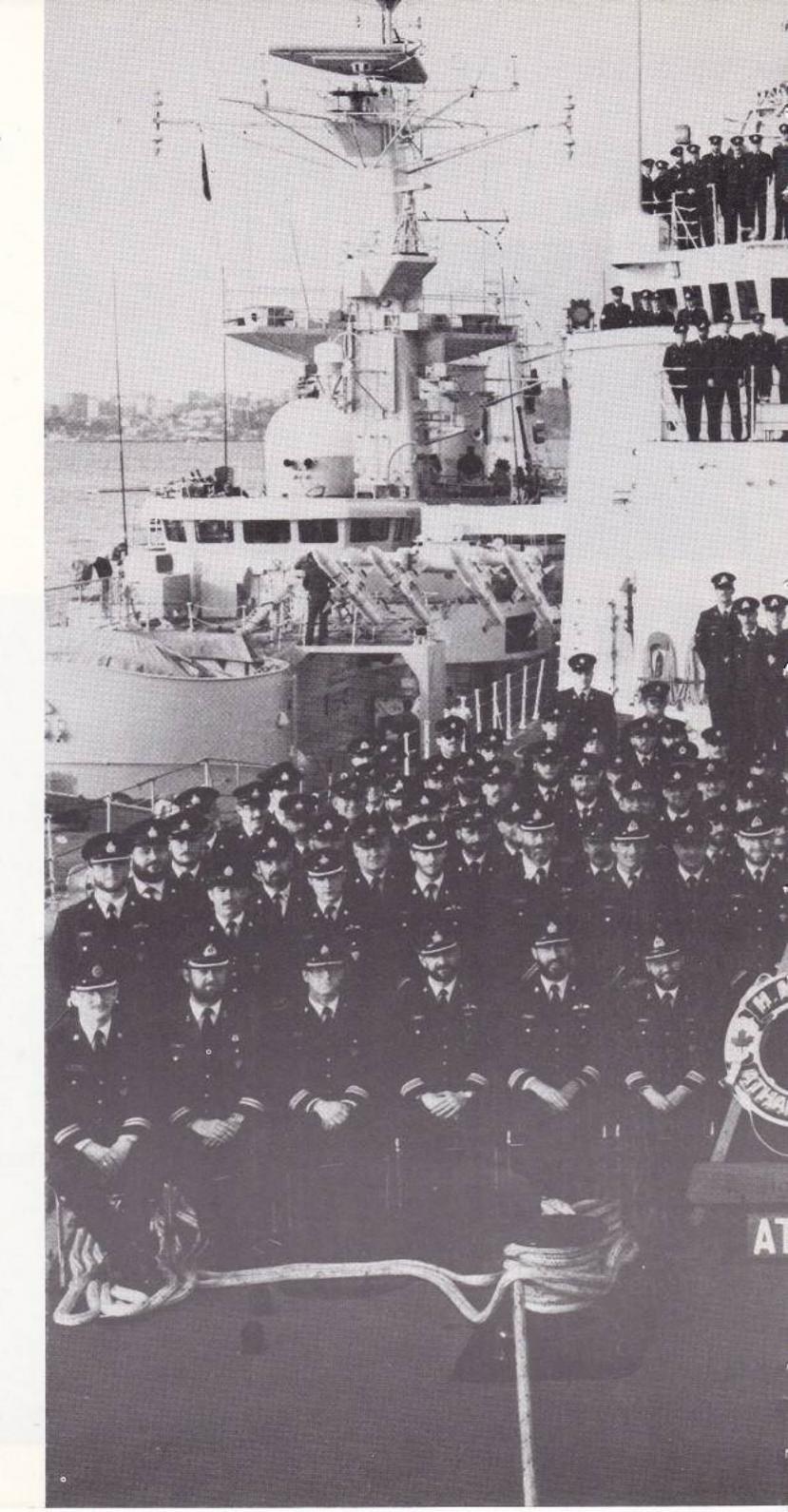
Cox'n C1CT Shergold

SLt Flaherty

SLt Gillis LT Guay LT Tardif LT Francis

Cera C1ER Sanford

Executive Department C2CT Budgell P1AW Hamilton





P1MA Cross MSAW Rawding LSMA Tingley LSAW Andrews LSAW Hoefler OSAW Ellis

Deck Department C2BN Mielke P1BN Wilson P2BN Coakes MSBN Wiley MSBN Rycroft MSBN Hogan LSBN Lunn LSBN Adams LSBN Hounsell LSBN O'Neil LSBN Theoret ABBN Mollison ABBN Biden ABBN Jensen ABBN Sekulic ABBN Vidler OSBN Fernandes OSBN Slauenwhite

OSBN Simon

Supply Department C2ST Ingram P1CK Sweeney P1ST Melrose P1CK Lancaster P2SW Hache P2SW Fontaine P2PW Tinneberg MSST Miller MSST Skinner MSSW Leeman MSSW Boudreau MSCK Martin LSPW Francis LSST Sherk LSST Gourley LSST Inkinen LSST Guy LSCK Cuza

ABST Barta
ABST Forsyth
ABCK Piper
ABCK Pratt
ABSW Westlake
ABSW Tessier
OSST Brennan
OSCK Wilson
OSCK Phillipoff
OSCK Tomlinson
OSCK Stacey
OSSW Morris
OSSW Rowsell
OSSW Vautour
OSSW Neaves

Engineering Department C1ER Gilbert C2HT Brockbank C2ET Starr C2ER Cox C2ER Clark P1ER Sloan P1ER Stevens P1ER Peterson P1ER Leach P1ER Keddie P1HT Cormier PlET Lapierre P2ER Stonebridge P2ER Beaudoin P2ER Cormier P2ER McLeod P2ER Burden

P2ET Pace P2ET Walker P2HT Harrod P2FF Dane MSER Spring MSER Manning MSER Noseworthy MSER Milne MSER Middlekoop MSER Chadbourn MSER St. Germain MSET Mackie MSET Lacasse MSHT Carroll MSFF MacKenna MSFF Alley LSER Alain LSER Adam LSER Bell LSER Shimwell LSER Beaudoin LSER Poirier LSET Laird LSET Kerkhof LSHT Dubeau LSHT Mierau LSHT Grant LSHT Gibson LSFF Peddle LSFF Morel LSFF Vinette LSFF Wollinger ABET Larose ABER Brisson ABER Howe ABER Urguhart ABER Smith ABHT Rogers ABER Crawford ABER Jones ABER McGregor ABER Oake ABER Parsons ABER Wilt ABHT Maltais ABER Swallow OSET Holding OSET Fillion OSET McGowan OSET Biggin OSER Campbell **OSER** House

OSER Keller OSER Klunder OSER Pickup OSER Ronbeck OSER Walters OSER Verhulp OSER Elliot

Weapons Department C2SN Boege C2RT MacNaughton C2FC Dawson C2WT Glover P1FC Tanner P1WT Tapscott PISN Hatt P2FC Solomon P2FC Gravelle P2FC Croney P2WT Womack P2SN Whyte P2SN Kalkman P2SN O'Grady P2SN Ross P2WT MacDonald MSFC Young MSFC Fawcett MSWT Pike MSWT Forsyth MSSN Monk LSFC Mullan LSFC Vernon LSWT Demers LSWT Labrech LSWT Jodoin LSWT Scott LSWT MacDonald LSWT Mugford LSWT Murphy ABSN Armstrong ABWT Mallyon

ABWT Gonnin

ABSN Dobson

OSFC Smith

OSWT Martin

**OSWT** Wright

OSFC Hawkins

OSFC Sammons

OSWT Bearss
OSWT Cartwright
OSWT Gray
OSWT Keeping
OSSN McMullin
OSSN Beck
OSSN Conron
OSSN Lee
OSFC Vaillancourt

Operations Department C2NS Kinnie C2CT Racine P1MT Zolinski P1RT Szumilak P1CT Finn P1EW Gallant P2RT Pare P2RT Hussey P2RT Ball P2NS Lowery P2NS Woodward P2CT Zilkowski P2EW Holm-Laursen MSRT Legare MSNS Flowers MSNS Sandness MSNS Mullen MSCT White MSCT Morden MSCT Muckersie MSCT Fletcher MSEW Kelly MSEW Henderson LSMT Zonneveld

LSRP Eisan

LSRP Pregent

LSRP Robertson LSRP Kelly LSRM Tower LSEW Sullivan LSRM Whitwell LSRM Lucas LSNS Kennedy ABRP Salisbury ABRP Plaxton ABEW Paradis ABEW Ceasor ABEW Thwaites ABRM Walker OSRM Saunders OSRM Ryan OSRM Chippa OSRM McCleave OSRP McKie OSRP McCoy OSRP Brake OSRP Brooks OSRP Carmichael OSRP Feltis OSRP Pikel OSRP Szucs OSEW Hineman OSEW Melchior OSEW Greenwood **OSEW Helpert** OSEW Rees OSNS Dumont OSNS MacGregor

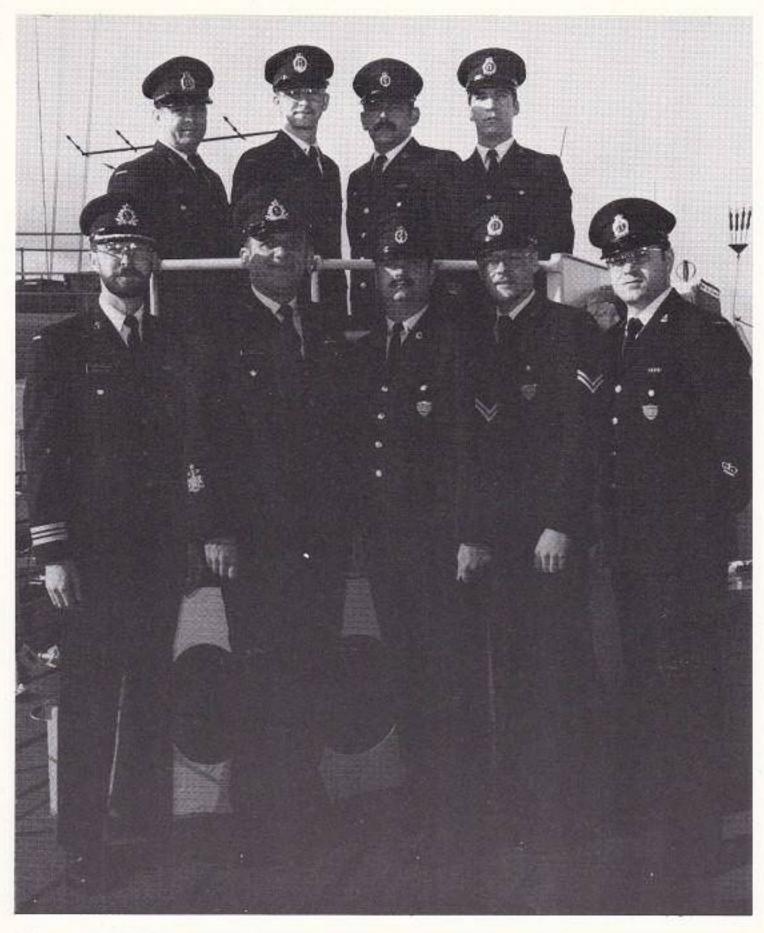
Air Department MWO Caudle WO Smith WO McKellar Sgt Sanford Sgt Gunnel MCpl Hutchinson MCpl Scott MCpl Bardeau MCpl Bowness MCpl Mattice MCpl Publicover Cpl Wilkes Cpl Bryan Cpl Levesque Cpl Fanjoy Cpl Downey Cpl Poirier Pte Gagne

## Wardroom



Deck Department





Executive Department

Engineering Department



Supply Department



Operations Department





Weapons/CSE Department



Air Department

### SNFL Staff

Front Row, Left to Right: Ms Gillis, LS Lizotte, MS Vautour, PO2 Isbell, PO1 MacFarlane, PO2 Willard, CPO2 Marlow. Centre Row, Left to Right: Cpl Forget, MS Antle, LCdr Odegaard RNoN, Cdr Alexander R.N., Cmdre H.M.D. MacNeil, Cdr Kunz FGN, LCdr Van Duyvendyk RNLN, CPO2 Clark RN. Rear Row, Left to Right: CPO2 Moore, MS Zwicker, LCdr Hales, Lt(N) Cook, Cpl Laybolt.



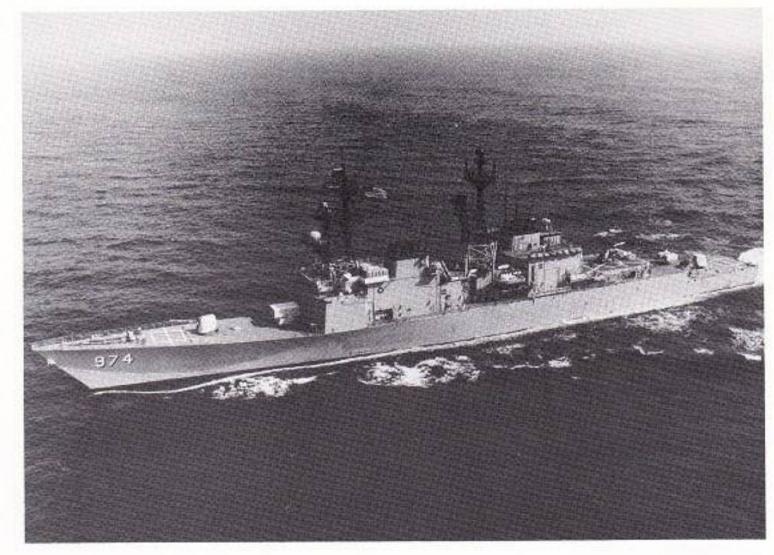
## STANAVFORLANT January-April 1983

## Our Colleagues



#### USS Comte de Grasse

The USS COMTE DE GRASSE was the largest ship in the squadron weighing in at 7300 tons and 563 feet long. The "Count" became well known for her midnight "breakfasts". USS COMTE DE GRASSE replaced ATHABASKAN as flagship of STANAVFORLANT.



#### FGS Rommel

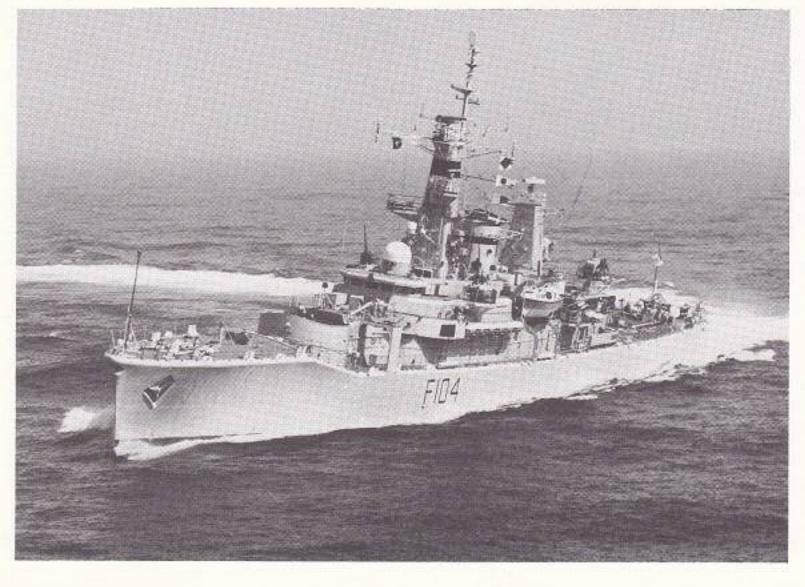
Rommel was the German Navy's contribution to SNFL. Aside from providing the squadron with long range air defence Rommel became popular for her beer calls, Bavarian nights, and led the squadron in athletic accomplishments.





#### **HNoMS** Narvik

Narvik was the baby of the squadron in terms of size, displacing only 1750 tons, but she packs a fair "punch" in terms of armament and certainly pulled her weight in all squadron activities. SNFL's "Vikings" added their own unmistakable brand of high spirits to the squadron.



#### HMS Dido

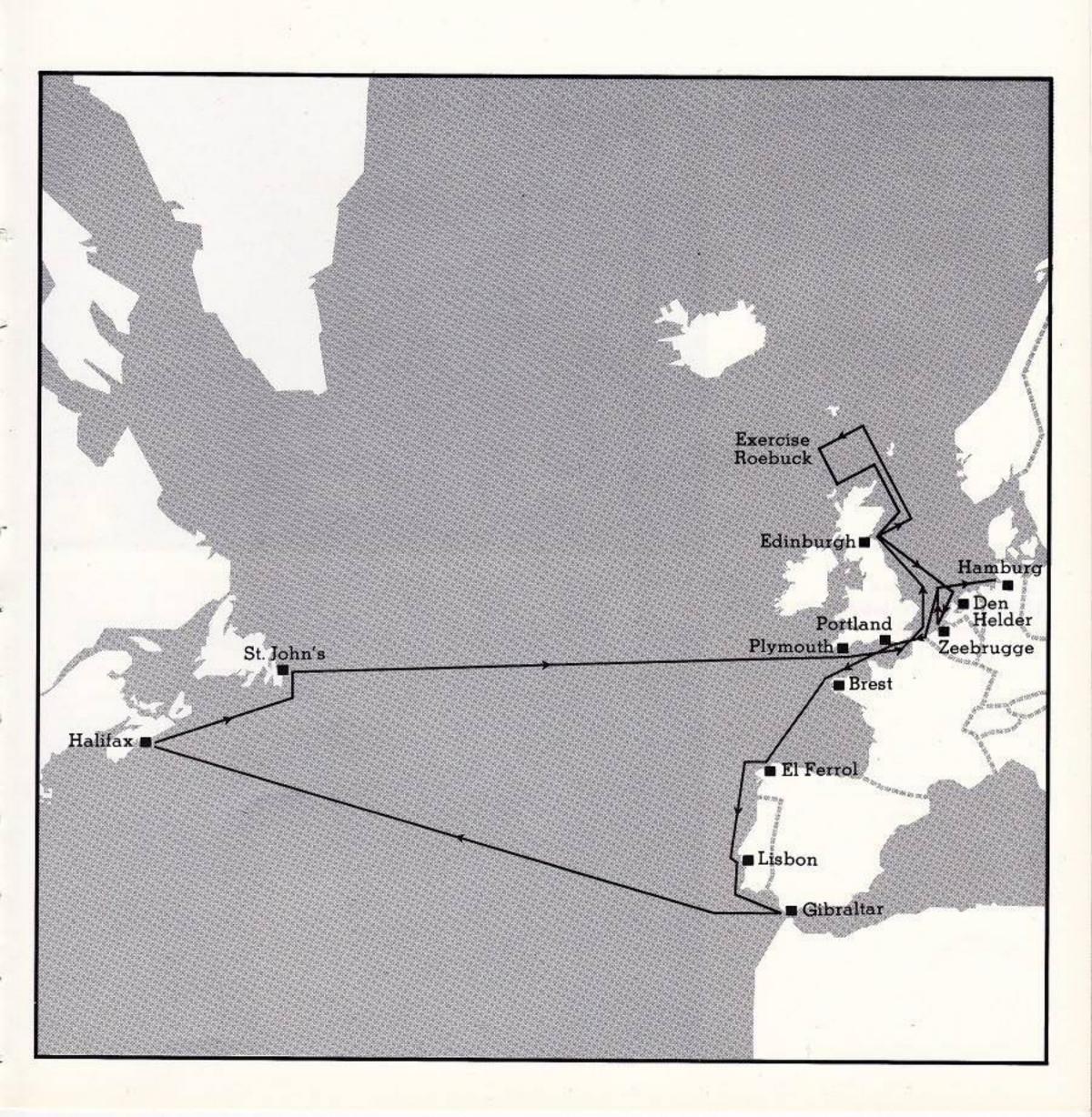
The Royal Navy's contribution to SNFL was the Leander class ASW frigate HMS Dido. Dido completed her deployment with the squadron at the same time as us and is soon to be transferred to the Royal New Zealand Navy.

#### **HNLMS Banckert**

The newest ship in the squadron was the three year old Banckert. Although our Dutch friends proved to be somewhat quiet and reserved they certainly were fast. In a memorable "drag race" between ATHABASKAN, Banckert and the "Count", Banckert proved to be the fastest off the mark.



## HMCS ATHABASKAN STANAVFORLANT Deployment 10 January-19 April 1983



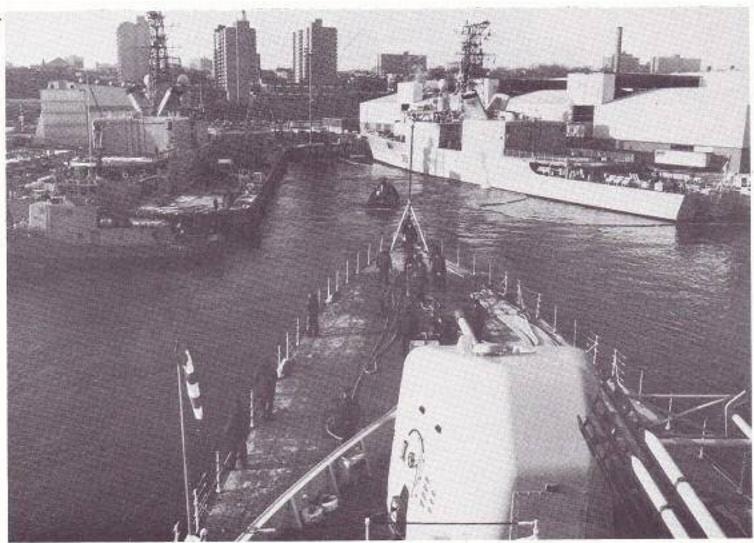
## Route Chart Joining SNFL

ATHABASKAN replaced ALGONQUIN as the flagship of SNFL on 23 December 1982 in Halifax. We remained in Halifax for Christmas and New Years until 10 January when we set sail for Europe and a rendezvous with the other ships of the squadron in Plymouth, England.

"Welcome to STANAVFORLANT". Commodore H.M.D. MacNeil welcomes his new flagship's company to SNFL, 22 December, 1982.



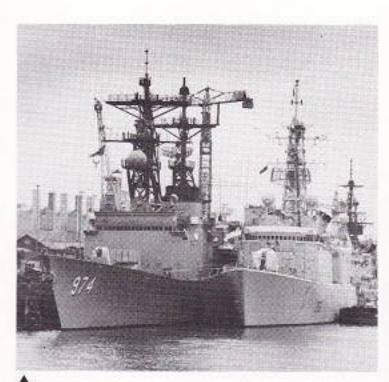
Fairwell to Halifax . . . ATHABASKAN departs for SNFL 10 January 1983.



### Plymouth 20-24 January 1983

In historic Plymouth, the home of the Royal Navy since the days of Drake and the Spanish Armada, the ships of SNFL regathered after their Christmas break. For ATHABASKAN it was the first chance to get acquainted with our new squadron mates: five other ships

and the men from five different navies. It was also a time to meet the squadron staff who would be living and sailing with us for the next three months and it was also a time to make our mark in the squadron with our poetic ability . . .



Altogether Again. SNFL rejoins in Plymouth, January 1983.



"Poetic Inspiration". LSEW Sullivan rewarded for his winning limerick in the SNFL limerick contest.

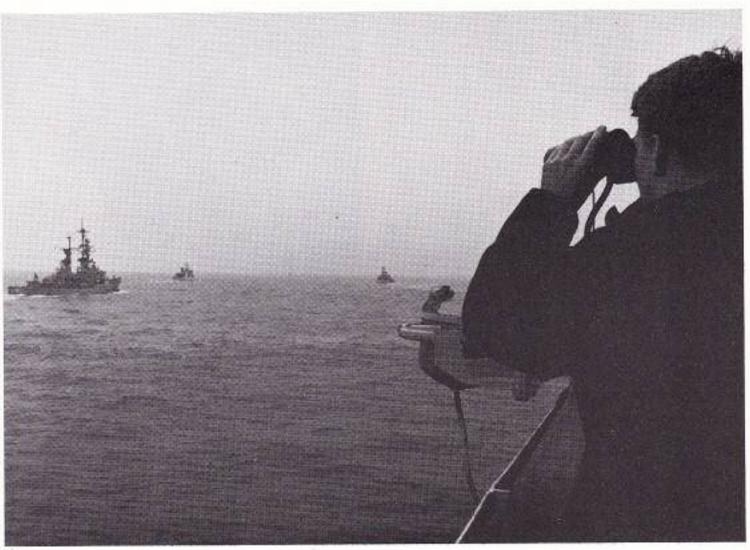


"Getting to Know You"

## SNFL Workups

For a week the ships of the squadron sailed through the English Channel and northwards up to the North Sea to Scotland becoming worked up as one united squadron

enroute by practising seamanship evolutions, ship manoeuvres, combat, operations and flying procedures.



Lookout



"I'm seeing double . . . how does this telescope work anyway?"



√". . . as long as they don't treat
you like a sack of mail"

"I think I prefer the helicopter . . ."



### Rosyth 28 January-1 February 1983

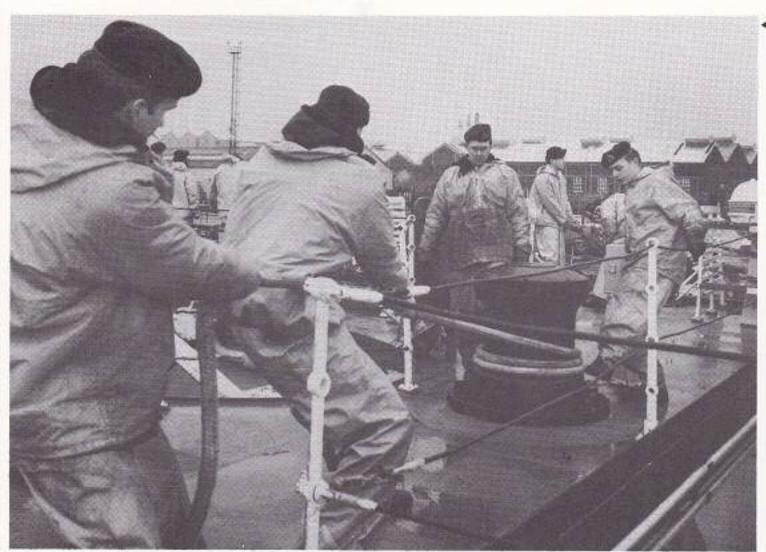
In Rosyth SNFL joined up with the other participants for the forthcoming Exercise Roebuck so that the port was full of sailors from eight different nations and ships ranging in size from diminutive Norwegian and German submarines to the aircraft carrier HMS Hermes. Rosyth was notable for its torrential rain showers and blustering gales but the inclement weather did not diminish our enjoyment of Scotland and we even managed to find time for a hockey game against a local semi-professional team.

Rosyth enables all the squardon's C.O.s to get together . . .



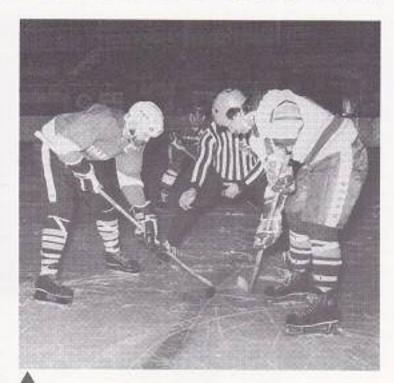
... With their opposite numbers from STANAVFORCHAN.





■"Maybe if I kick it, it will turn faster".





"Perhaps if I get the puck this time we'll be able to score".

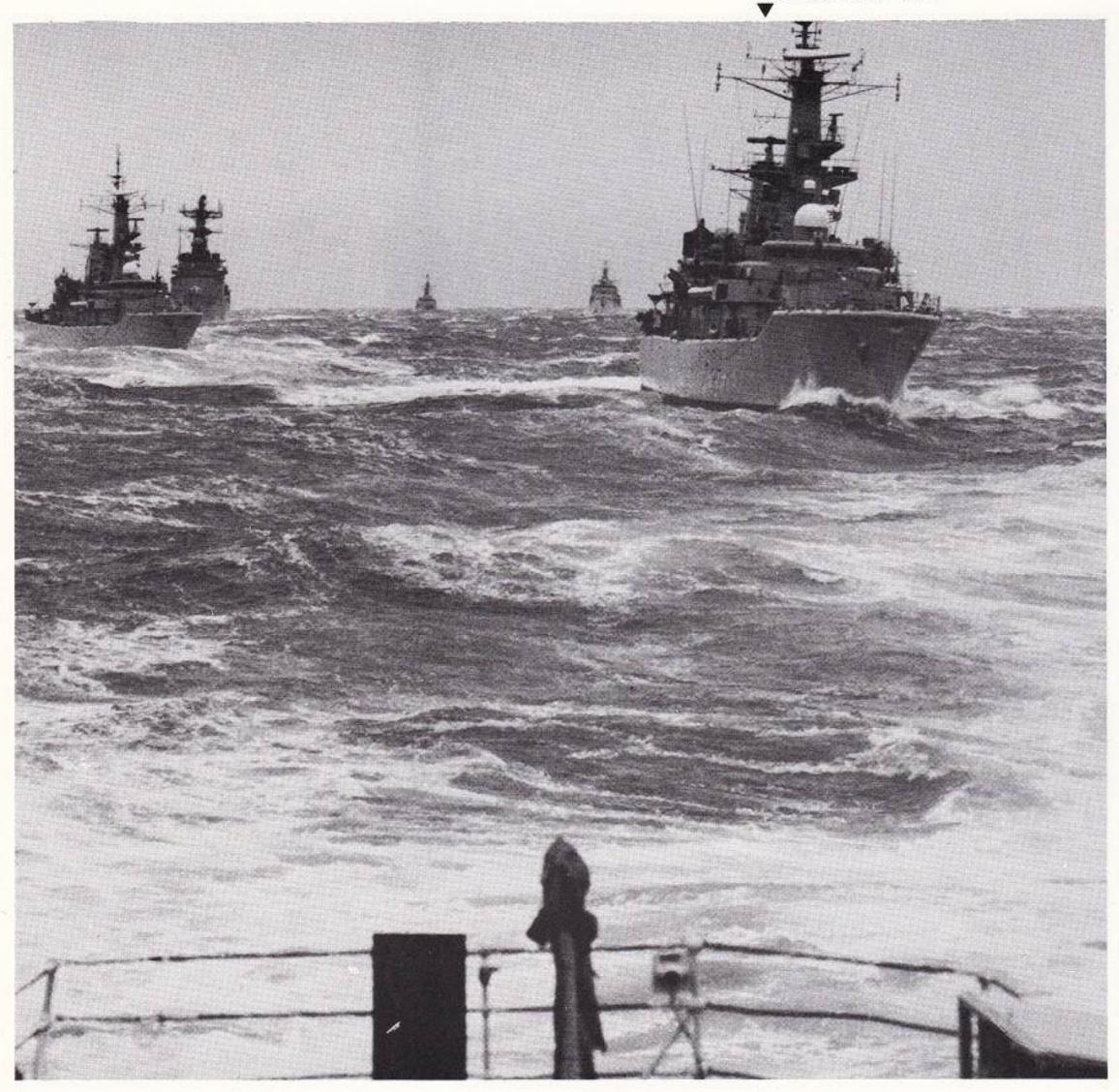
■"With talent like this how can we be losing?"

## Exercise Roebuck 1-11 February 1983

For the first two weeks of February SNFL roamed the rough seas between the Shetlands and Faroes participating in Exercise Roebuck — a Royal Navy Exercise combining dozens of submarines, ships, and aircraft in a multi-threat maritime warfare scenario.

ATHABASKAN distinguished herself successfully hunting submarines as well as reacting to air attacks and undertaking

SNFL (and friends) face the raging sea . . . (1)



shore bombardments at the Cape Wrath Firing Range on Scotland's northern tip. As always there were several Replenishments at Sea in all weathers . . . Nonetheless, a brief respite at anchor in the Hebrides

gave our cooks a chance to show us that there was still time for fun and, unseen by many, there was always the ongoing work of the Engineering Department.

... . and (2)



 . . . Some days the RAS approach was smooth sailing



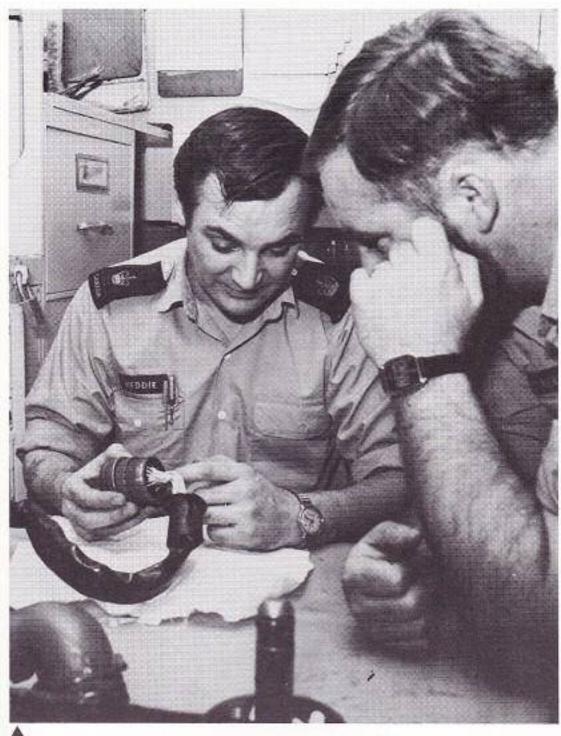
. . . and other days it was rough! RAS with FGS Rhoen moray Firth 10 February 1983.



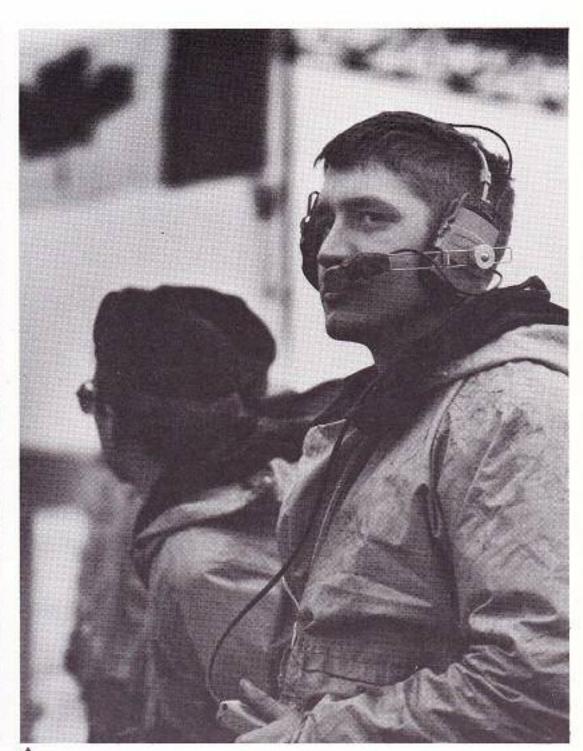


◆Sweeney's Scientists: "We catch 'em and we cook 'em!" On completion of Roebuck we made another happy weekend visit to the Edinburgh area, this time visiting Leith. Upon leaving Leith ATHABASKAN set some kind of record by visiting four ports in three different countries

in the space of 36 hours.
Helicopter problems led us to
make unscheduled stops in
Rosyth again and in Den Helder,
Netherlands before we reached
Zeebrugge.



"It used to go back together . . ."



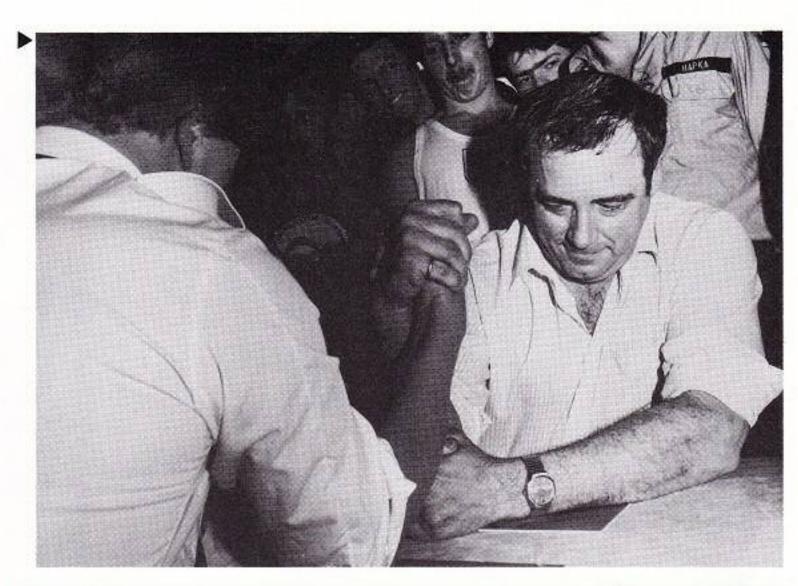
"Not another port today!"

## Zeebrugge 17-24 February 1983

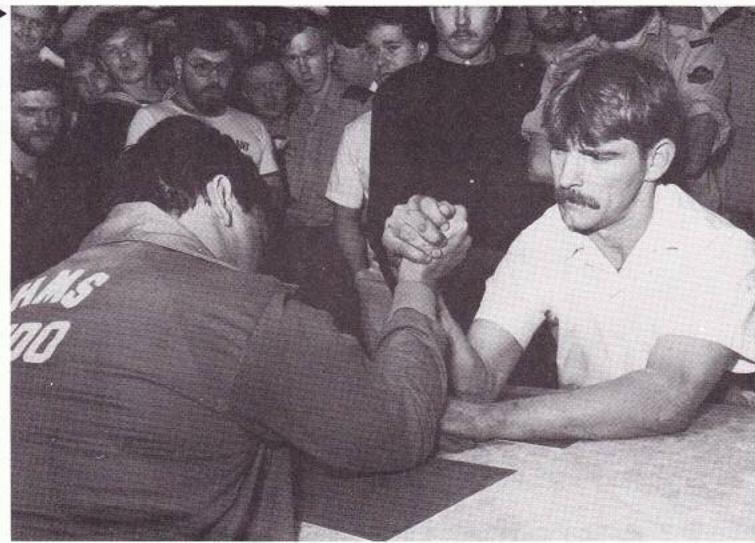
The force reassembled for a week long visit to the Belgian port of Zeebrugge. This enabled the squadron to undertake a number of fun filled sporting competitions and also, for only

the second time in SNFL's history, a Force Mess dinner for all the officers of the squadron: a time for good food, good wine, and good fun.

"Captain's Table!"



"You want to make complaints about the food again?"





**◀**"We Pull As One"



■"Mr. President" The Force Mess Dinner

War stories▶



"Is it all for me?"





"Gentlemen . . . the men who made it possible."

## Hamburg 25 February-2 March 1983

One of the many highlights of our deployment was the visit to the bustling, exciting city of Hamburg. Aside from the wealth of things laid on for us ranging from opera visits to brewery tours, there was the constant

attraction of Hamburg's world famous night life. In Hamburg, too, we received thousands of visitors as our berth in the centre of the city made us accessible to all . . .



■"The brow is now open . . . to visitors".



■"Willkommen an Bord".

## Channel Exercises 2-14 March 1983

Following our visit to Hamburg the squadron spent two weeks in the English Channel and Bay of Biscay engaged in operational exercises: gun shoots, CASEXes, seamanship evolutions, and two brief port visits to Portland, England and Brest, France. The absolute highlight of the period, and perhaps of the deployment, was the first firing by a Canadian ship of two warshot Sea Sparrow missiles.



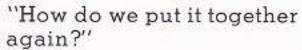
On 7 March, 1983 in the English Channel off the coast of Devon. Fired against a radio controlled aeroplane "SHELDUCK" drone, both missiles scored hits and sent the drone tumbling to the sea in flames.

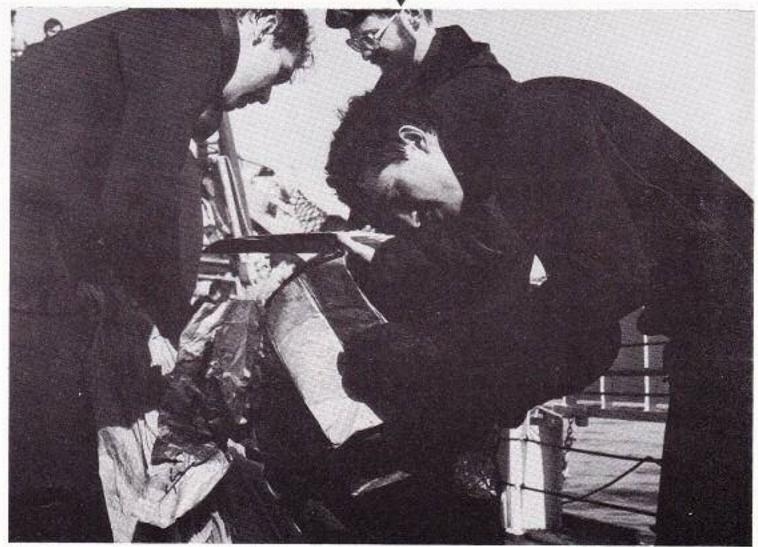
"Port Missile System . . . Shoot!"
7 March, 1983.

•



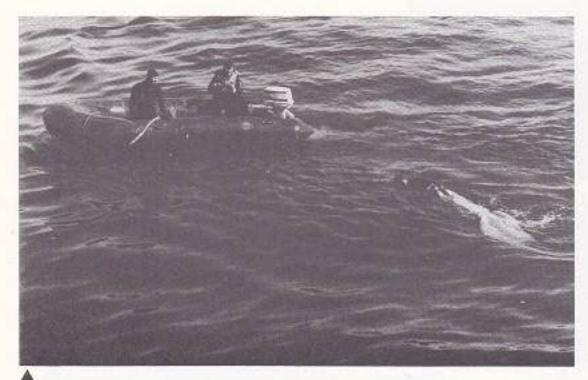
■"The Result . . . The remains of the target drone after being "splashed" by a warshot missile.





"It will never fly".





"Hey wait for me!"



"How much longer do I have to hold the paddle like this?"

"Watch my thumb!"

"The Bridge says, "Pull Harder or you'll be rowing!"





Which way to Mecca anyway?"



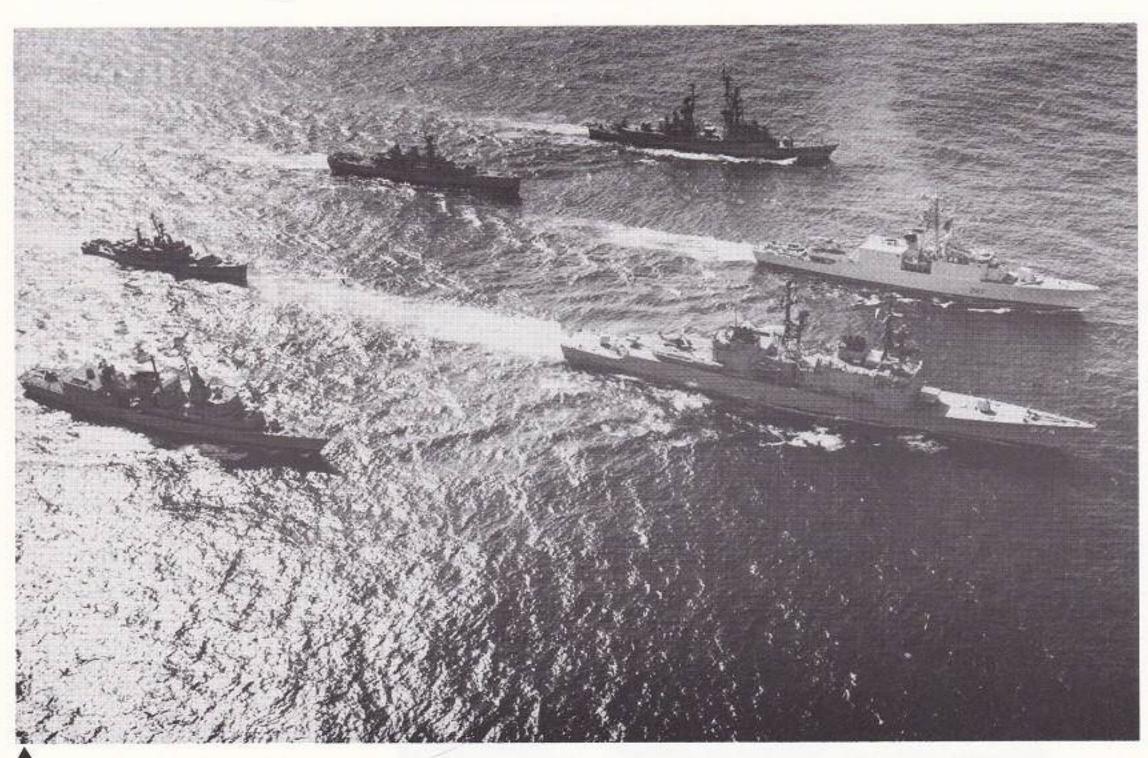
■"ATHABASKAN Towing Co. — 24 hour service, radio dispatched"!



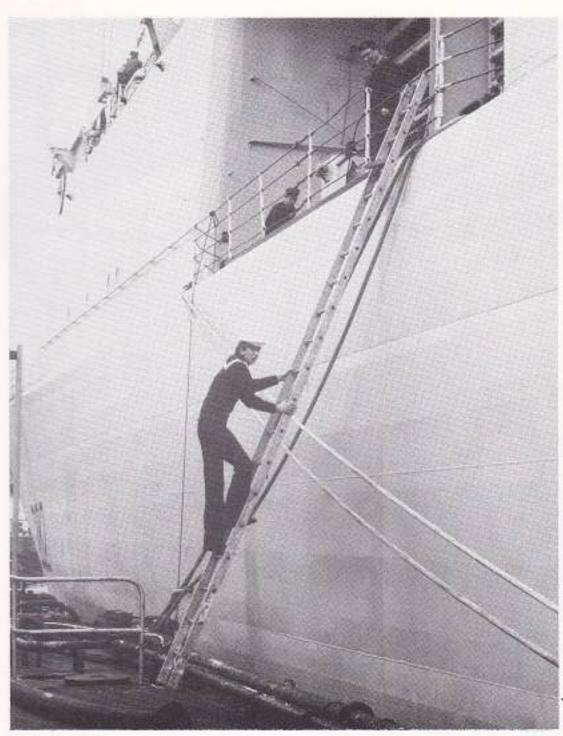
■"How do we land this thing anyway?"

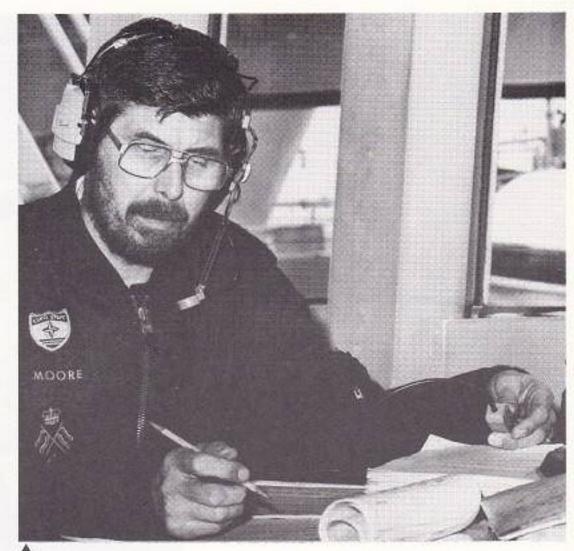


■"Simon says . . . Spread your wings!"



Southward Bound





"Now to send them a really difficult formation".

■Brest, France: "We need a higher jetty"!

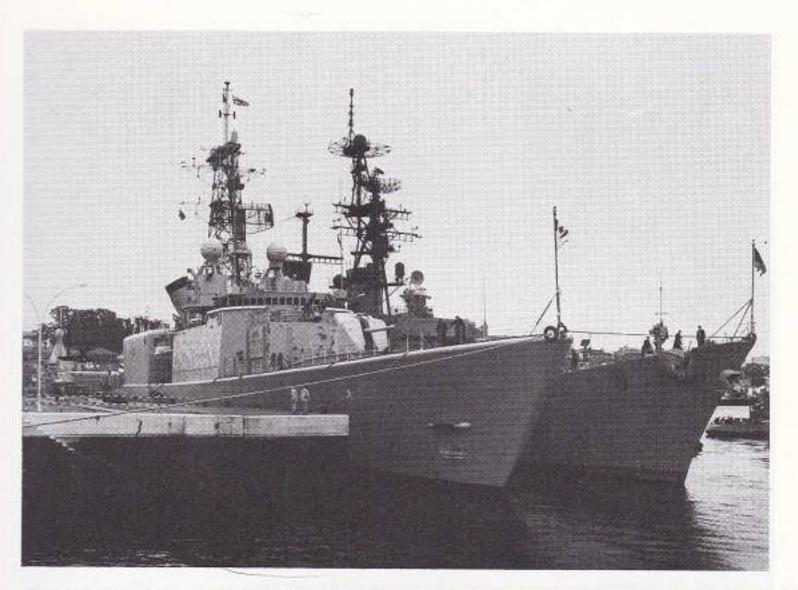
El Ferrol, Spain 14-18 March 1983 SNFL paid its first visit to Spain with a week-long visit to the naval base at El Ferrol in the northwest corner of Spain.
Although images of 'sunny

Spain' were dispelled by the nearly constant rainfall an enjoyable and interesting time was had in what was a new port for everyone.



4)

"Navigator, how do we sail out of here?"



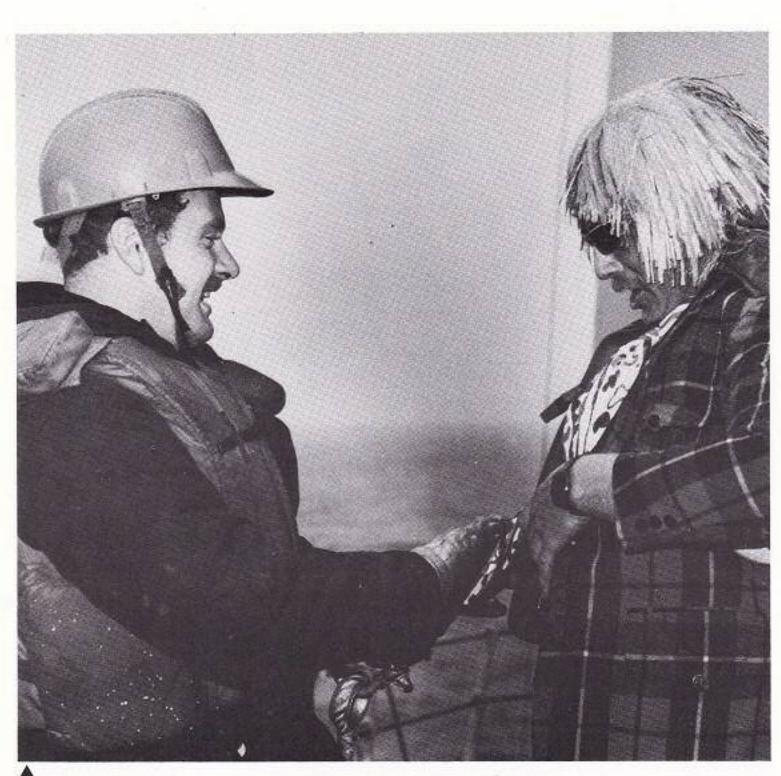


■"I think we need an interpreter. Where is Fernandes?"

#### Funex'83

On completion of the last operational exercises it was time for some relaxation, fun and games. Thus in quick succession we experienced: The Great ATHABASKAN Mountain

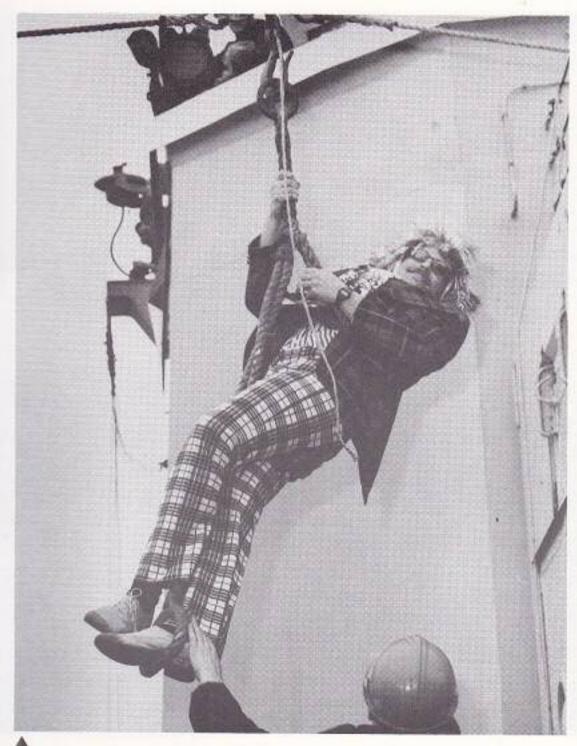
Climbing Expedition, which raised money for charity, as the Engineering Department scaled the lofty heights of 03 Deck for the first time; Kitex '83; General Drills; "Tiddly Dinner" for the



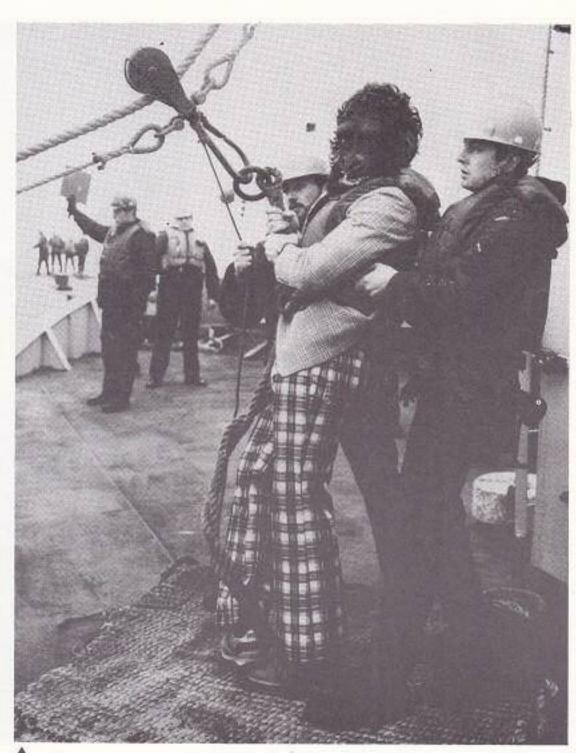
"Careful, I write your PER"!

CO and Commodore in the "Main Cave"; and, finally, our farewell sail past as we bade farewell to our comrades of the past three months. In keeping with ATHABASKAN's great

spirit the entire ship joined together to produce a sail past of unforgetable dimensions ranging from the flying 'hoser" to team 'waterskiing".

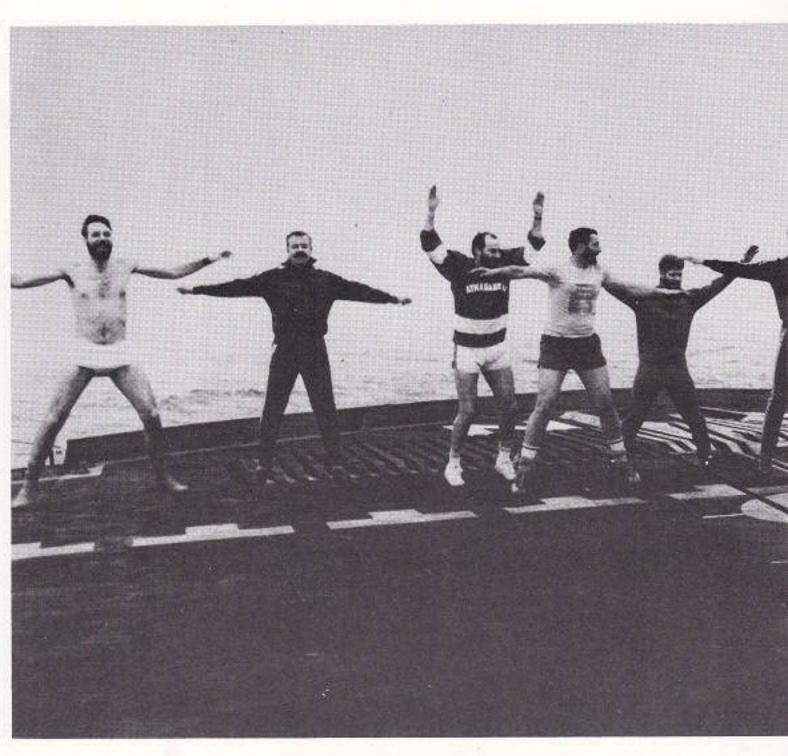


"What was that about PER's"?



"Can we send it back"?

# General Drills



"Nice boat, Buffer, but where's the Galley"?

"Its my ship and I'll stand where I like"!

"Let me see SNFL's Playmate >>>
of the month"!







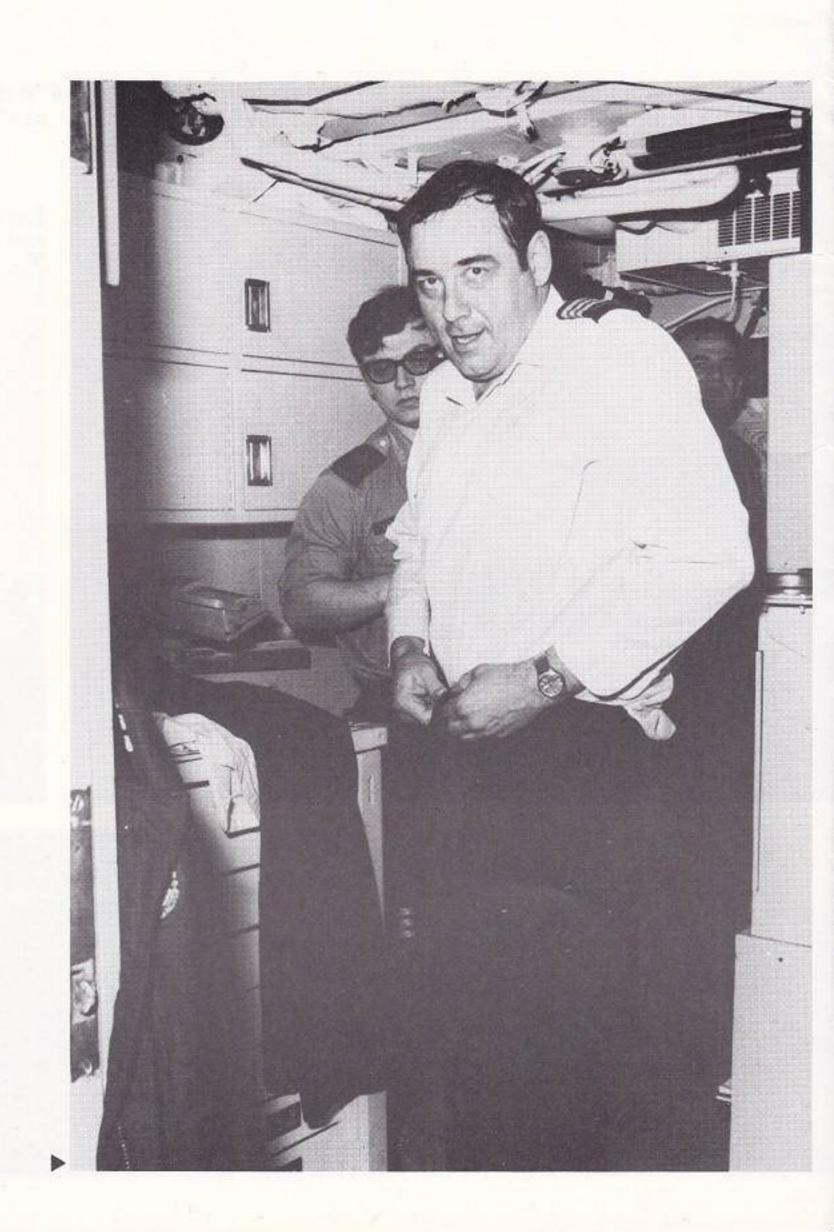
◆ "If the helos can't fly at least we can"

For that extra knot advantage — sail power?





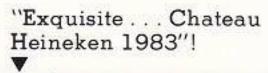




Caught with his pants down!

▼"Step 10: Push Button to Talk"

▼The XO . . . May he Rest In Peace.









# The Great Athabaskan Mountain Climbing Expedition

"The Pause that Refreshes"



"The Top is in Sight"



Kite Flyer Extraordinaire







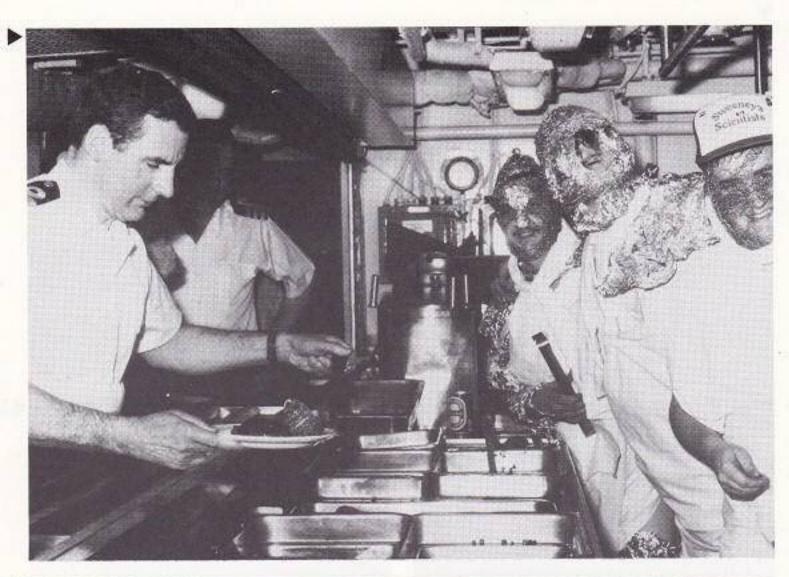
◀Per Ardua Ad Astra



■"You mean I don't have to fly in it'?

### The Commodore and CO Dine in the 'Main Cave'

"Is it safe to eat"?

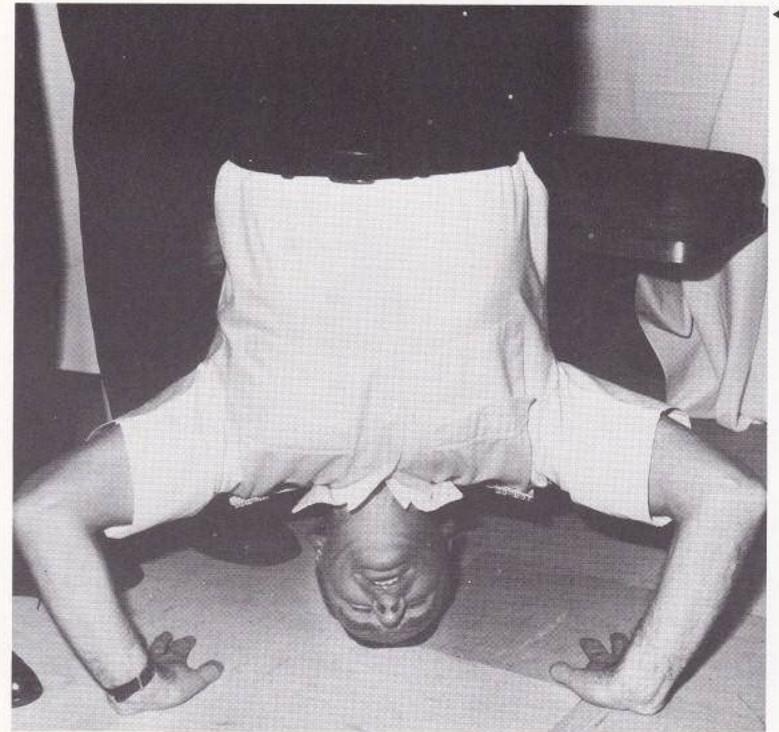


"We should try this restaurant more often"!





■"Now, Sir, you will have to perform for your dinner"!

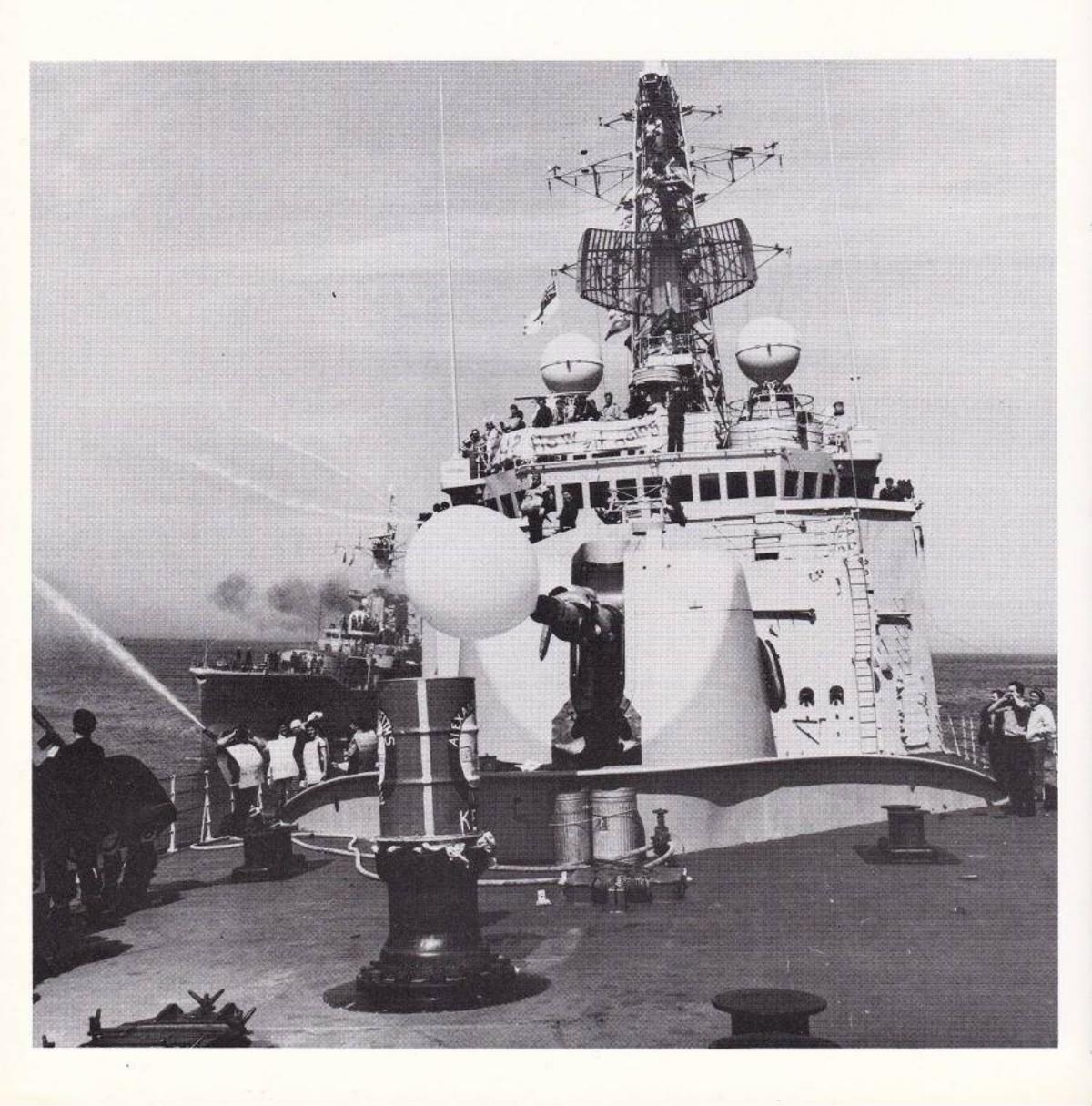


■"Won't I get indigestion"?

## Farewell Sailpast

It has become a tradition in SNFL that ship's departing the squadron sail past their comrades to say their 'farewell'. In keeping with the rest of her

SNFL deployment
ATHABASKAN established a
new standard of fun and
participation for a sailpast.





■"You should see how my officers dress"!



◆"Its only because I'm the Pay Officer that I can afford such finery"! "We'll try anything to catch up to ATHABASKAN"



"We're leaving SNFL too"!





**◄**"You asked for it"!



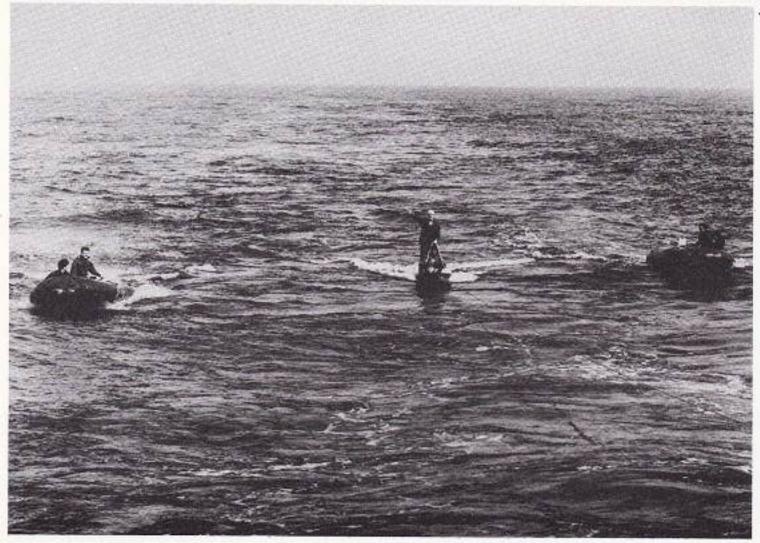
**◀**"Bring me my sword"!



◆ "Send me on another Cross Poll to NARVIK"



◀ "Take Off, you Hoser"!

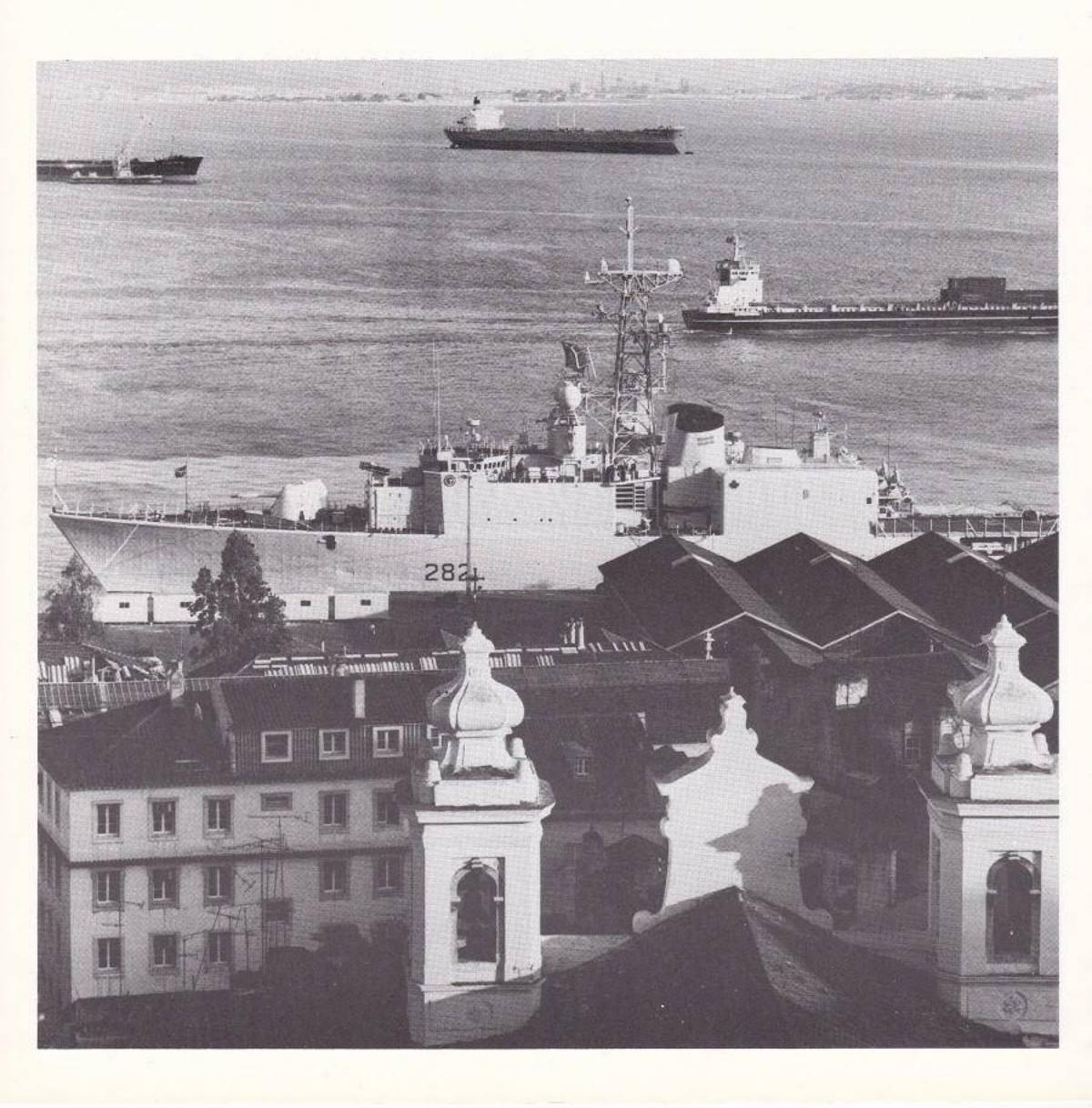


◆ "Faster or we'll never get to Lisbon"!

#### Lisbon 21 March-8 April 1983

Our deployment with SNFL came to an end with a three week work period in Lisbon. The fine weather gave us all a chance to participate in painting the ship until she gleamed like new and then it was time to

prepare for the Change Of Command Parade. However, it was not all work and there was time for a little fun too. Finally it was time to leave Lisbon and to leave SNFL homeward bound for Canada. The overwhelming



farewell given to us as we sailed out past our former colleagues was a clear demonstration of the esteem and affection that they held for ATHABASKAN and her crew.



■"If it hadn't been for that double bogey on the seventh hole . . .".



■ "Now that you've won the model contest prize maybe you can try your hand at cooking again!" "Submarines don't stand a chance against us!"





# Change of Command

The culmination of our visit to Lisbon, and the completion of our term as flagship of SNFL, was the Change of Command Ceremony on 7 April 1983 held at the Portuguese Naval Academy.

This impressive ceremony involving contingents from nine different navies, and much of NATO'S naval "top brass", was largely orchestrated by ATHABASKAN in her



Change of Command Parade.

capacity as flagship of SNFL.

On April 7th Command of SNFL passed from Commodore HMD MacNeil to Capt. Streeter of the USN and his flag shifted from the ATHABASKAN to USS COMTE deGRASSE. SNFL was now under US Command

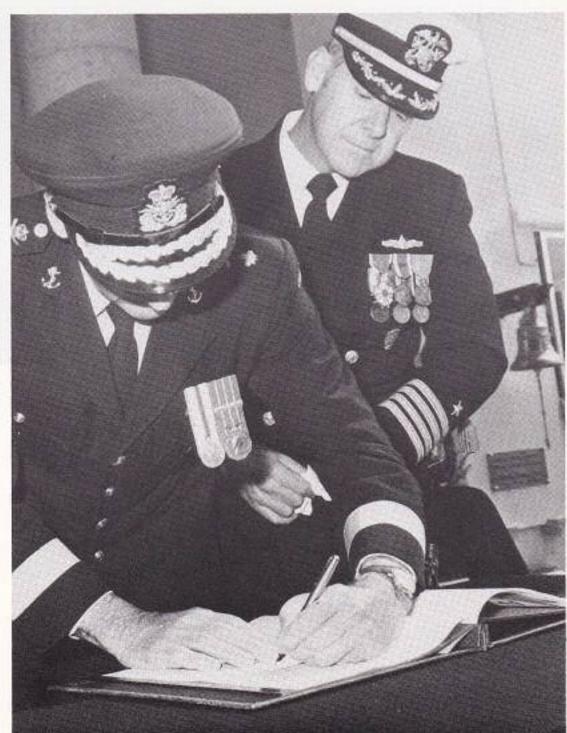


Reviewing Stand.





"It's been a good year — now it's your turn . . ."



"It's almost mine."



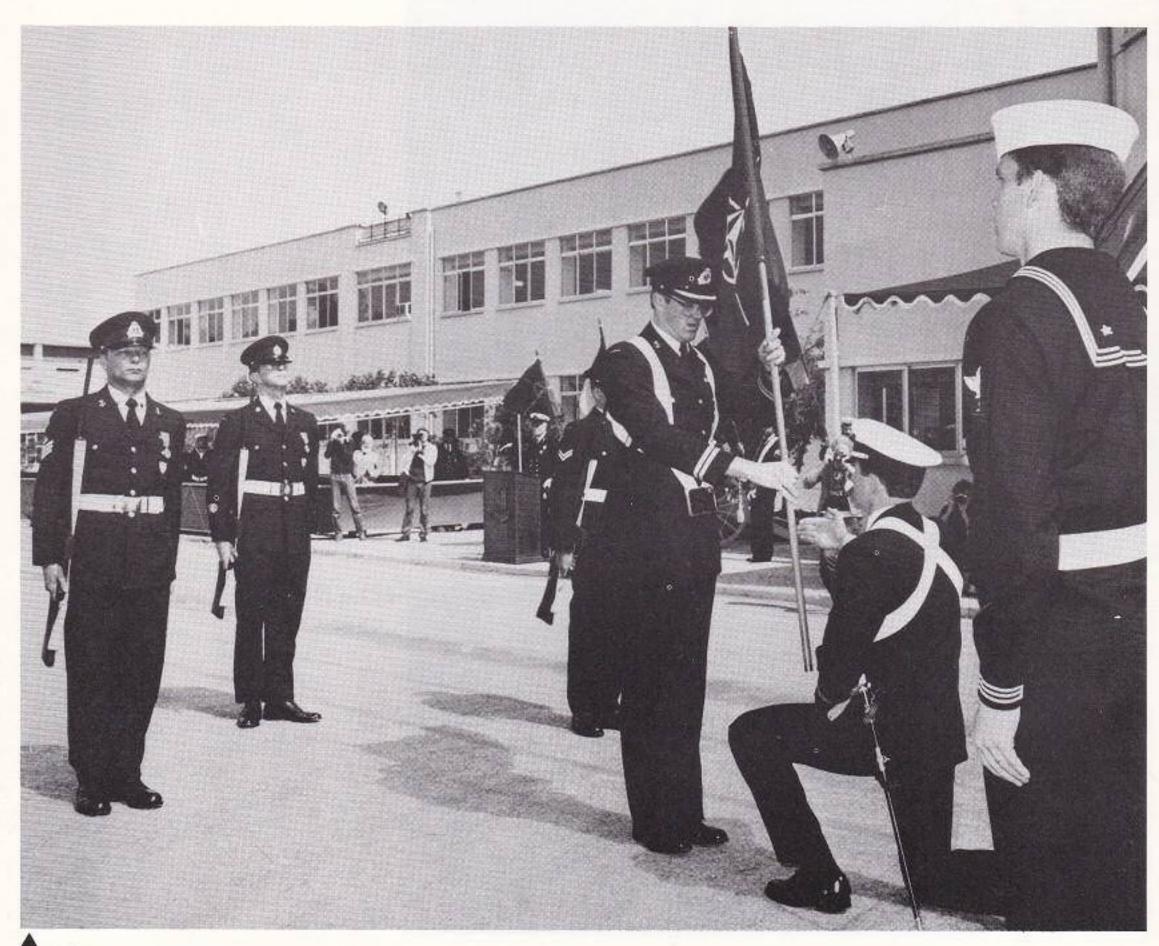
◆"Farewell — you've been a good Flagship." Cdre McNeil bids farewell to ATHABASKAN



◆The New Commodore takes over.



Newcomers dressed for the occasion.



Out with the old . . .

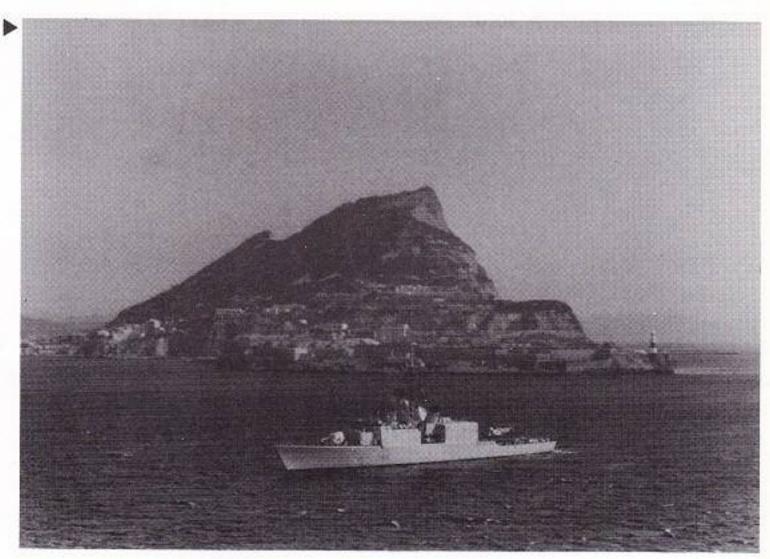
. . . and in with the new. The transfer of flags between flagships.



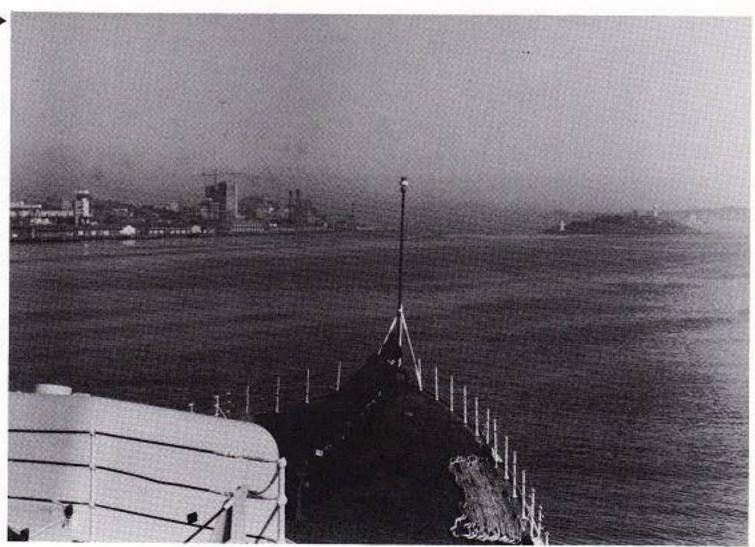
#### Homeward Bound

On the 8th of April we left Lisbon and our SNFL partners homeward bound at last back to Halifax. But first there was a brief fueling stop and relaxing visit to Gibraltar before we headed westwards to our waiting loved ones . . .

Gibraltar



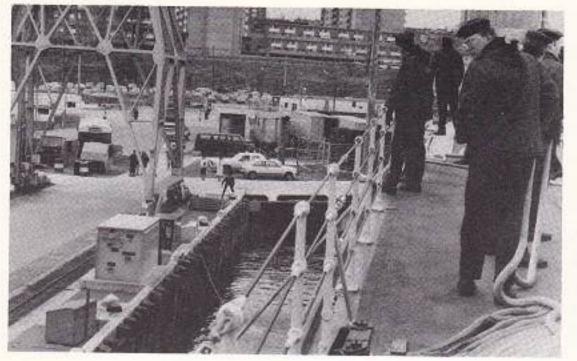
Our favorite port



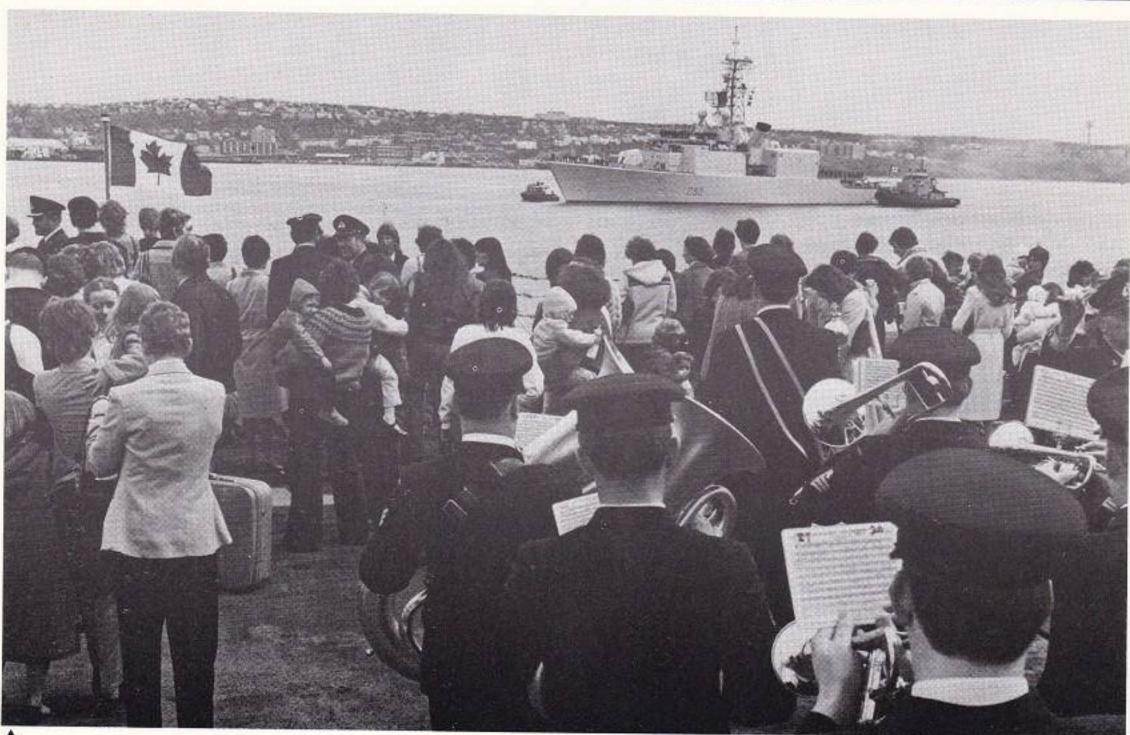




Almost there







Home Again